

10 Classic Shotguns Every Collector Must Have



For avid firearm enthusiasts and collectors, shotguns hold a special place in their hearts. These iconic firearms boast a rich history, elegant craftsmanship, and exceptional functionality. Owning a collection of classic shotguns is a source of pride and a journey through time, tracing the evolution of these masterpieces.

In this article, we will delve into ten [classic shotguns](#) that every collector must have. If you're a dedicated collector seeking to expand your portfolio, these timeless beauties are sure to catch your eye.

1. Winchester Model 1897

The Winchester Model 1897 is a timeless pump-action shotgun that has left an indelible mark on firearms history. Designed by John Browning, this shotgun was revolutionary for its time. With a distinctive exposed hammer and a five-round tubular magazine, the Model 1897 offered reliability and versatility. Its legacy as a military and civilian shotgun makes it a must-have for collectors.

2. Remington Model 31

Introduced in 1931, the Remington Model 31 was a breakthrough in pump-action technology. Its refined design and smoother action quickly gained popularity among shooters. Collectors are drawn to the Model 31 for its

elegant aesthetics and historical significance as the predecessor to the iconic Remington 870.

3. Parker Brothers Double Barrel

A true testament to American craftsmanship, the Parker Brothers Double Barrel shotgun is a work of art. Handcrafted with precision, these side-by-side shotguns exude sophistication and style. Each piece represents a piece of history, as the Parker Brothers company produced these masterpieces from 1866 until 1934, earning a reputation for quality that collectors admire.

4. Browning Auto-5

The Browning Auto-5, also known as the A5, was one of history's first successful semi-automatic shotguns. Designed by the legendary John Browning, this shotgun utilizes a long-recoil action, providing reliable cycling and excellent balance. Its timeless design and long production history have solidified its status as a collector's dream.

5. Winchester Model 21

The Winchester Model 21 is a classic American side-by-side shotgun known for its durability and craftsmanship. Handmade by skilled artisans, this shotgun is renowned for its robust build and flawless operation. Its scarcity on the market makes it highly sought after by collectors and a symbol of timeless elegance.

6. Beretta 686 Silver Pigeon

Embodying Italian elegance and precision engineering, the Beretta 686 Silver Pigeon is a staple among collectors. Introduced in the 1980s, this over-and-under shotgun is celebrated for its performance in the field and aesthetic appeal. Beretta's legacy of producing fine firearms spans centuries, making the 686 Silver Pigeon a must-have in any collector's arsenal.

7. Ithaca Model 37

As one of the few shotguns still in production since its introduction in 1937, the Ithaca Model 37 has earned its place in the hearts of collectors. This pump-action shotgun's unique bottom ejection system and solid construction have made it a favorite among hunters and sports shooters. Owning a vintage Model 37 is a way to connect with a long-standing American tradition.

8. Holland & Holland Royal Side-by-Side

For those who appreciate British gun making, the Holland & Holland Royal Side-by-Side is the epitome of luxury. Meticulously handcrafted by skilled artisans, this shotgun represents the pinnacle of elegance and performance. The Royal Side-by-Side embodies fine craftsmanship and is a cherished addition to any shotgun collection.

9. Mossberg 500

The Mossberg 500, introduced in 1961, is a true American classic. Loved for its simplicity, reliability, and affordability, the 500 series has been widely

adopted for home defense and hunting purposes. Collectors appreciate its historical significance as one of the most popular pump-action shotguns in the world.

10. Perazzi MX8

The Perazzi MX8 is a high-end Italian shotgun celebrated for its unrivaled performance in competitive shooting. With a reputation for precision engineering and attention to detail, these over-and-under shotguns are the preferred choice of many professional shooters. Owning a Perazzi MX8 is a testament to the owner's appreciation for both form and function.

[**Vintage Firearms Appraisal Services Available**](#)

Building a collection of classic shotguns is an artful pursuit that unites history, craftsmanship, and passion for firearms. Each of the ten shotguns listed above has its unique story and allure, attracting collectors from all walks of life. As you expand your collection, consider reaching out to firearms appraisal services to understand your cherished pieces' true value and historical significance.

Whether you're a seasoned collector or just starting your journey into the world of vintage firearms, utilizing these appraisal services will provide you with the knowledge and confidence to navigate the market, make informed decisions, and cherish your collection for generations. Remember that the joy of collecting is not only in owning these timeless shotguns but also in understanding their rich heritage.

[**Understanding the Basics of Firearms Collecting**](#)

[**Collecting classic shotguns**](#) can be a rewarding and fulfilling hobby, but it requires a foundation of knowledge and understanding of the basics.

Whether you are a seasoned collector or a novice enthusiast, here are some essential aspects to consider when diving into the world of firearms collecting:

- Research: Study the history and significance of classic shotguns through books and online resources.
- Authenticity: Verify each firearm's authenticity and provenance to ensure its value.
- Condition: Aim for well-maintained shotguns to preserve their worth.
- Legalities: Comply with local laws and obtain necessary permits for firearm ownership.
- Diverse Collection: Build a varied collection representing different manufacturers and historical periods.
- Networking: Engage with fellow collectors to expand knowledge and find reputable sellers.
- Preservation: Store firearms in a controlled environment to protect them.
- Budget: Set a budget to avoid overspending and focus on quality over quantity.
- Reputable Sellers: Buy from trusted sources to avoid counterfeit firearms.
- Passion and Patience: Be patient and passionate in building a meaningful collection over time.

[Classic shotguns](#) like the Browning Auto-5 or Remington Autoloading add value. These guns have stood the test of time with unmatched craftsmanship and history. But remember, safety first, as these are not mere showpieces but lethal weapons.

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